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Nunn Asks Probe of Reports Nicaragua Might Get MiGs

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STAT ATLANTA, Nov. 22—Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) is calling for an investigation of reports earlier this month from U.S. government officials that a Soviet ship might have docked in a Nicaraguan harbor with a cargo of MiG21 jets.

The allegations by unidentified officials were first reported on Nov. 6, and were discounted within days. But Nunn said they were "very damaging to our abilities to monitor Soviet activity."

"Now, it's going to be much harder to gather intelligence on what the Soviet Union is up to," Nunn said in an interview published in today's combined editions of The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution.

Nunn called for an investigation by the Select Committee on Intelligence, of which he is a member.

"Some people I've talked with in the intelligence community are very upset about it," Nunn said. "They felt that it was almost treasonous."

On Nov. 6, television networks quoted unidentified government sources as saying there may have been Soviet MiGs on a freighter that had docked in the Nicaraguan port of Corinto. Many other news organizations followed with similar reports.

The Nicaraguan government warned its people that an invasion was imminent, and tanks were seen on the streets of Managua.

On Nov. 9, U.S. officials said there was no evidence of MiGs on the ship. Later, Secretary of State George P. Shultz said the initial reports were the result of a leak within the Reagan administration, "a criminal act, in my opinion."